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■ Council to launch a 'snow warden' scheme

BID TO HALT SALT THEFTS

By Oliver Evans

RESIDENTS are to be asked to police salt supplies to deter drivers from illegally taking supplies from collection bins during icy weather.

Banbury Town Council leaders hope the "snow warden" scheme will combat "selfish" people who empty grit bins for personal use.

Salt is intended for use on the public roads and footpaths. Those who take salt for their own land can be prosecuted for theft.

Thefts have pushed the council's salt budget from £3,000 in 2011/12 to £10,000 and then £30,000 this financial year.

Council leader Kieron Mallon said wardens could distribute salt in their area, for example by keeping it in their garage.

Locks could be added to the council's 83 salt bins, so wardens can protect supplies, he said. The scheme is expected to launch next winter.

Conservative Mr Mallon said: "It is helping people to help themselves.

"It would be along the lines of Neighbourhood Watch. You would have a group of snow wardens on an estate to keep an eye on grit levels and certain bins.

"This would stop people stealing the salt and driving off with it."

Volunteers would be trained by the town council on how to best use supplies, he said.

Mr Mallon said: "The vast majority of people in our towns and villages are responsible.

"But there are always a selfish minority who spoil it for others.

"They don't realise that by their selfish actions they could be depriving elderly disabled people of having a safe environment when snow falls."

And he already has one resident signed up, Mike Smail, 62, of Falcon Close, Banbury.

He could not get out of his street to get to a hospital where his daughter, Kathryn, was giving birth in January because the nearest salt bin was empty.

Mr Mallon gave him a lift to buy some salt and he got to Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital an hour after she gave birth to his



Town council leader Kieron Mallon, left, with Mike Smail, who was almost prevented from visiting his newly born grandchild for the want of some grit

OX57731

first grandchild. Mr Smail – who plans to store supplies in his garage for his cul-de-sac and neighbouring streets – said: "If it is being taken by others then it is inconsiderate, selfish and dangerous.

"If it is just a case of just doing it ourselves in a small area, then people can co-operate. It makes a lot of sense."

The management consultant added: "The more people that take this up, the more effective it will be."

Oxfordshire County Council – the highways authority – only grits major roads.

For information about the scheme, call the town council on 01295 250340.

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ALL WINDOWS MANUFACTURED IN BANBURY

Anger at go-ahead for railway parking

A CONTROVERSIAL multi-storey car park plan for Banbury train station has been approved by councillors. Cherwell District Council's planning committee approved the scheme, involving land next to a Royal Mail sorting office, off Higham Way, last Thursday. Chiltern Railways said the 707-space car park was vital to meet growing demand and the loss this year of car parks on temporary leases. Yet some councillors and residents warned the move would be overbearing on nearby flats and increase traffic congestion.

Local councillor Ann Bonner said: "As a local councillor who has fought for additional parking at Banbury station for years, to be so vehemently opposed to this application must prove to you how flawed I think the proposals are."

Warning of a "drastic" traffic impact, the three-storey car park should go on the other side of the station, she said.

Committee member Colin Clarke said he was "dismayed, disappointed, bewildered and angry" that planning officers had recommended approval – after previously urging refusal. Recent support by Oxfordshire County Council's highways department had been a key element.

Mr Clarke said: "I cannot aptly describe my strength of opposition to this application." Chiltern Railways said the Government had given cash for only 707 spaces – with a link bridge to the station – and a March completion.

Man is jailed over indecent child images

A MAN, who made and distributed "hundreds" of indecent images of children, has been jailed.

Christopher Lines, 38, of Grimsbury Drive, Banbury, was sentenced to 12 months at Oxford Crown Court last Thursday.

He admitted 36 counts on the indictment, which consisted of 15 counts of making indecent images of children, 18 counts of distributing indecent images and three counts of incitement to distribute indecent photographs of children.

In addition to the 12-month custodial sentence, Lines received a seven-year Sexual Offences Prevention Order and ten years inclusion on the Sex Offenders Register.

Det Con Mike West, of Thames Valley Police CID, said: "We hope that this sentence serves as a deterrent to others that this type of behaviour will be brought to justice."

Do-it-yourself scheme to provide affordable flats

YOUNG apprentices are to help refurbish a 150-year-old "eyesore" building and turn them into affordable flats, which they will then live in.

Cherwell District Council has bought 1 West Street, Grimsbury, from a housing association to turn it into five, one- and two-bedroom flats.

The building has been empty for about five years and is fenced off and has metal plates over the windows.

It will include a communal garden, patio, parking area and bike racks and will be offered on a shared-ownership basis.

Ann Bonner, a councillor for Banbury Grimsbury and Castle, hailed the recent sale of the property as "fantastic news".

She said: "It has taken years of hard work, so I am absolutely jubilant that we have finally secured a deal for this property."

"This will become a focal point for the start of the conservation area in Grimsbury."

It is part of the council's Build! project, which gets young people to help refurbish or build homes they then live in.

This included ten one-bedroom maisonettes in Miller Road, Bretch Hill, which was completed last year.

The West Street building was last used as six bedsits by housing association A2Dominion.

Regional development director Gerry Walker said: "Not only will it bring a

prominent building back into use, but it will create much-needed affordable housing for the area while providing those taking part in the Build! project with employable skills for the future."

The plan will need planning permission from the council.

Kidlington's ACE Training will hold sessions to repair a wall at the property on Tuesday, March 19, and Tuesday, March 26, from 10.30am.

Details will be announced soon for an event for people to express an interest in the properties.

Those who work on the property will be given first refusal to live in it.

The council would not say how much it paid for the building.



Councillors Ann Bonner, Debbie Pickford and Margaret Cullip outside the boarded-up building in West Street, Banbury

■ Hotel, cinema, shops, bars and restaurants could be built

Jobs hope as shopping centre plans expansion

MOVES to extend Banbury's Castle Quay shopping centre have been welcomed by business leaders.

Centre owners Scottish Widows Investment Partnership (SWIP) are developing plans for a hotel, cinema, shops, bars and restaurants.

It would extend the centre's footprint by 25 per cent and create up to 500 full-time and 1,000 part-time roles.

It is being seen as an attempt by the firm to shore up the town centre's offering after a major retail park plan was approved.

That development – to

By Oliver Evans

include a Marks & Spencer and Next – will cover the site of motorsport firm Prodrive, which will move nearby, by junction nine of the M40.

Malcolm Doughty, who owns Henry's menswear shop in High Street, said he hoped it would "thwart" the Prodrive plans.

He said of Castle Quay's plans: "It is wonderful. It is great news if it goes ahead. It is great for the town. A cinema would be brilliant."

Centre fund manager

Caerffon Murray said the plan "reaffirms SWIP's commitment to Castle Quay and maintaining Banbury's city centre offering".

He said: "We are delighted to confirm we are in the early stages of developing a proposal to extend Castle Quay shopping centre."

"Banbury is widely renowned as being a scenic town with Castle Quay shopping centre ideally situated next to the picturesque Oxford Canal."

"We are confident that the proposed extension will capitalise on the existing facilities and attract new visitors

to Banbury town centre."

The firm said the plan was in its "early stages" and could not say where the extension would be built.

Centre commercial manager Paul Jackson said: "This investment protects the retailers and workers who are currently employed at Castle Quay whilst simultaneously providing them with exciting prospects for the future."

Banbury and District Chamber of Commerce chairman Claire Kingsbury speculated that Scottish Widows only had a choice of two sites.

They are the site of the former Spiceball Leisure Centre – now rebuilt on the other side of the River Cherwell – and the Bolton Road area.

Cherwell District Council

wants to redevelop the Bolton Road area in a move that would replace its multi-storey car park. It was not available for comment.

She said: "If it is going to include leisure facilities, then that would be fantastic."

"It would be great to have more family-orientated restaurants."

"Anything that brings local employment and helps the economy is to be welcomed, as long as it is not stopping what is already here."

Scottish Widows said the extension would generate more than 3,000 full-, part-time and seasonal roles at the centre, which opened in 2000.

It would add four more retail units to the existing 80 retailers and nine kiosks.

...but delays hit Prodrive

A MAJOR new out-of-town retail park in Banbury has been delayed by a year, pushing its opening to summer 2015.

Motorsport firm Prodrive wanted to leave its Acorn Way HQ by May to make way for the retail park, to open in summer 2014.

But it said delays in the planning process mean it will not leave until summer next year, with the retail park opening a year later.

The retail park would include a Marks & Spencer and Next and Prodrive would move to the former Hella lighting factory nearby. A spokesman said:

"There are various delays. The planning process has taken a lot longer than expected. It has

been frustrating." The firm and LXB Retail Properties Plc won Cherwell District Council's permission in March, amid concerns it would suck trade from the town.

Yet it had to be agreed by Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Eric Pickles and then the council again. This was completed by December.

Asked if the economic downturn had contributed to the delay, the spokesman said: "We are champing at the bit to get going. We have received a lot of positive support."

He said of the Castle Quay plan: "It is evidence that the town centre is stronger than everybody thinks it is."



Banbury's Castle Quay shopping centre is expanding with the possibility of new restaurants and a cinema. Pictured is the centre's commercial manager Paul Jackson

OX57755

■ Giorgio, 16, signs for the MK Dons

Teenager plays with the top professionals

OXFORDSHIRE teenager Giorgio Rasulo is living every schoolboy footballer's dream.

The 16-year-old attacking midfielder, from Hanwell, has embarked on a professional career with Milton Keynes Dons after signing a one-year contract. He became the youngest player to feature in an FA Cup tie for the npower League One club when making his debut at the age of 15

By Russell Smith

years and 295 days in the 6-1 home win over Cambridge City in a first-round replay.

And he also scored a last-gasp winner for England Under 16s in their 1-0 victory over Scotland at Burton Albion's Pirelli Stadium.

Rasulo, who is studying for his GCSEs at Warriner School, Bloxham,

before taking up a two-year scholarship with MK Dons in September, said he had only ever wanted to be a footballer.

"It has been my dream since I was little, getting up in the morning and watching *Match of the Day* and singing along to the theme tune," he said.

He joined the MK Dons academy as a 14-year-old after being spotted playing for Bloxham in an under 12s tournament at Brackley by a scout.

And manager Karl Robinson gave him his opportunity to step up to the first team in this season's FA Cup

"I was just really happy and couldn't stop smiling," said Rasulo, who supports Napoli as his father, Gaetano, hails from Naples.

"In the replay I managed to get on for about 20-25 minutes. I had a shot which the keeper saved and went out for a corner, and an assist.

"It was just incredible celebrations and the atmosphere was amazing."

Rasulo, who has played for Oxfordshire Schools, was then called up by England Under 16s manager Kenny Swain, the former Aston Villa fullback, for their final match in the Sky Sports Victory Shield.

And, after coming on as a substitute for the second half, he curled home the winner deep into injury time, which made England champions for a 12th successive year.

"It was incredible to play for your country," he said. "It is what every little boy dreams of."

"I played a one-two with a player in the team (Callum Cooke) and he went to shoot and it got blocked and fell to me, and I put it into the top corner."

"I just remember everyone jumping on top of me and screaming. I was really happy."

He made his second first-team appearance for MK Dons when coming on as a substitute for the last three minutes in the goalless draw against Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough in the third round.

Rasulo was an unused substitute for the 2-0 replay win, as he was for MK Dons' famous 4-2 victory at QPR in round four. "To see us win and be around all those players in the Premier League was a different experience altogether," he said. "For me to get to the top level would be my ambition."



Giorgio Rasulo in action for Milton Keynes Dons, where he became the youngest player to feature in an FA Cup tie for the npower League One Picture: Courtesy of MK Dons

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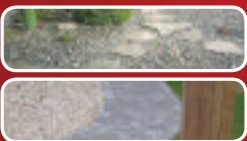
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Man walks free following petrol bomb charges

A MAN accused of throwing a petrol bomb at his girlfriend's family has been cleared of all charges.

Yisa Hassan-Sule walked free from Oxford Crown Court on Friday after a jury acquitted him of attempting to cause grievous bodily harm with intent and affray.

The 28-year-old was alleged to have made a Molotov cocktail out of a wine bottle and thrown it at a group of people in Balmoral Avenue, Banbury, on December 3, 2011.

But his barrister, Darren Snow, said

his client had been set up by the supposed targets of the attack – his ex-partner Alice Greatbatch, her father, James Greatbatch, Tommy Butler and Harry Williams.

He told the court that the group had conspired to break a bottle and pour petrol over it to frame Hassan-Sule, after he arrived in Balmoral Avenue to speak to his former girlfriend.

The pair left in his car after the defendant was punched by Mr Greatbatch and called a racist name, he said.

But the group alleged he returned and threw a petrol bomb at them, striking a wall.

Mr Snow said there were "inconsistencies" in the accounts of the four witnesses relating to how he allegedly threw the bottle.

He said: "The reason they got it so wrong, I suggest to you, is there was an agreement to lie about this petrol bomb. But these people, far from being criminal masterminds, are simply incapable of a credible lie."

More pupils are offered their preferred choice

Growing success over school places

THE percentage of children in Oxfordshire being offered a place at their preferred secondary school is at its highest level since 2006.

Parents across the county were due to receive letters regarding the allocation of places late last week.

The county council said the seven-year high was a combination of an excellent relationship between secondary schools and the county council's admissions team, good transport links to schools, and parents wanting to send their children to easy-to-reach schools.

The good news means the vast majority of parents will be able to avoid the stress of re-thinking which secondary school they should send their children to.

County council cabinet member for education Melinda Tilley said: "The council has a consistent record of doing well when it comes to secondary school admissions."

"This year again the level of children being offered their favoured school has risen, which is fantastic, making it the highest percentage level since 2006."

"In recent years we have also been well above the national

By Andrew Ffrench

average when it comes to the percentage offered their first choice school."

A total of 5,445 pupils out of 5,870, or 92.7 per cent of those who applied, have been allocated a place at their preferred school for the 2013/14 academic year, an increase of 1.2 per cent compared to the previous year.

In total, 5,792 out of 5,870 applicants, or 98.6 per cent, received their first, second or third preference school, compared to 98.05 per cent last year.

The poorest performance for first choice places in the last seven years was back in 2010, when only 88.5 per cent were approved. The national average is around 80 per cent.

Parents who applied online will be sent an email informing them of which school has been allocated for their child.

Letters regarding primary school allocations are due to be sent out on April 16.

In recent years there has been a greater squeeze on allocations in the primary school sector.

To address this, the council has earmarked about £20m for extra school places in 2011, 2012, and 2013.



County education chief Melinda Tilley

InCOURT

Verdicts from magistrates' courts around the county

■ **Barry Doyle**, 32, of Albert Street, Banbury, convicted of racially or religiously aggravated harassment in Banbury on July 26. Fined £165 and told to pay £15 victims' surcharge and £200 costs.

■ **Christopher Bardon**, 25, of Dover Avenue, Banbury, admitted stealing four bottles of perfume, worth £224.50 from Debenhams, in Banbury on January 2 and meat, worth £92.45, from Aldi in Banbury on January 7. Community order made with 12-month supervision requirement and told to pay £60 victims' surcharge.

■ **Gary Evans**, 20, of Tadmarton Road, Bloxham, admitted obstructing a police constable in the execution of his duty on July 29 in The Avenue, Bloxham. Also admitted two counts of assault on the same date. Community order made with thinking skills course and supervision requirements. Told to pay £85 costs, and £150 compensation.

■ **Nicholas Sumners**, 47, Lodge Terrace, Chipping Norton, admitted breaching a restraining order in Chipping Norton by going within 30m of Withers Way on February 18. Sent to prison for 14 days.

■ **Martyn Brough**, 22, of Portway, Banbury, admitted breaching a restraining order in Booth Road, Banbury, on November 12 and caused criminal damage to a rear windscreen in the same road on November 11. Given six-month conditional discharge and told to pay £15 victims' surcharge.

■ **Leon Caton**, 21, of Harlequin Way, Banbury, admitted failing to comply with the requirements of a suspended sentence order made on October 31 by failing to attend an adapt session on January 24. Given 14-week prison sentence.

■ Questions raised over ill-equipped watchdog

Damning report over regulator's care staffing

FAILING health institutions could be missed because the county's inspection body is "pathetically" staffed, it has been claimed.

Concerns have been raised that unless more inspectors are found at Stafford or Winterbourne-type scandal could be missed in Oxfordshire.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) only had two Oxfordshire inspectors in November last year and only has five now.

Between them those five inspectors have responsibility for inspecting 447 health institutions across Oxfordshire, ranging from care homes and dentists to general hospitals.

The CQC says each inspector should monitor up to 50 institutions each, but current staff would have to look at 89.

Oxfordshire MP Andrew Smith has questioned whether the county has an adequate number of inspectors.

Jacquie Pearce-Gervis, of Oxfordshire-based watchdog Patient Voice, said: "It is a pathetic number of inspectors.

"They have got to cover such a wide role they will not be able to do it properly and will be spread very thin.

"They should be looking at more to avoid a repeat of Stafford or Winterbourne."

Substandard care led to hundreds of deaths at Stafford Hospital between 2005 and 2008, while an investigation in 2011 found patients were repeatedly abused at Winterbourne View hospital near Bristol.

County councillors met with CQC staff in November and reported back to the county's joint health overview and scrutiny committee last month.

Councillor Jim Couchman said:

By Tom Jennings

"We were pretty worried by what we saw as an extremely ill-equipped organisation to deal with the responsibility accrued to it.

"They were experiencing a severe shortage of staff in Oxfordshire and were using temporary staff from as far away as Dorset and Devon.

"When you think of the total budget of these 447 settings, there really is room for a proper inspection team.

"The CQC is not a proper inspection team in any way, shape or form."

He also doubted the CQC would be able to meet its requirement of visiting all 447 institutions by April and raised concerns that the time spent at each – half a day at smaller sites and five days at the John Radcliffe Hospital – was not enough.

He added: "The John Radcliffe is a huge responsibility in itself. I thought they would have needed an

inspector on site all the time."

Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry said: "It seems to me that this is exactly the sort of issue that a democratically accountable Health and Wellbeing Board should be pursuing, so I think it is absolutely right that councillors should take up and pursue concerns about local NHS and social care provision, including inspection, if they feel appropriate.

"I have absolutely no doubt that if county councillors feel at any time that they need to enlist the support of local Members of Parliament they will do so, but I don't think it is going to be appropriate for MPs to be trying to second guess county councillors on their health and wellbeing responsibilities."

The CQC refused to be interviewed, but a spokesman said five more inspectors were being trained and could be in place by the end of the month. Inspectors from a bank of 70 covering the South East were also being called in to help make up the deficit.



Jacquie Pearce-Gervis, of Oxfordshire-based watchdog Patient Voice

Highlighting problems

BERT Dowler, 88, raised concerns about care home Brooklands 2 in Banbury in 2011 after his friend, Arthur Forse, stayed there.

He said problems at the home included a lack of cleanliness, poor and unsuitable food and communication issues with staff.

Mr Dowler said the health of his friend deteriorated and he lost weight before he was moved to Southerndown in Chipping Norton.

The CQC carried out an unannounced inspection following the complaints and found the home was not meeting

"essential standards".

Mr Dowler said: "I consider the CQC did because so many people living at the home were neglected.

"I would assume that they need more inspectors to pay more frequent visitors to observe malpractice.

"Many patients cannot communicate, so it needs an external observer to identify faults."

He said care homes were "slaughter houses" where they "stick you in nappies and give you tablets to keep you quiet until you fade away".



Bert Dowler



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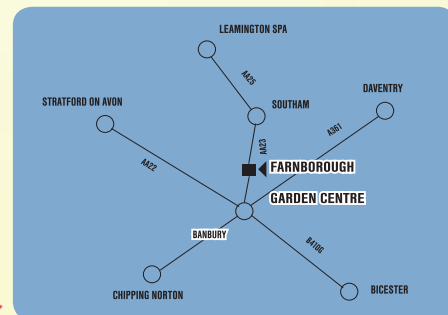
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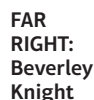


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■ Campaigners condemn the cutting of 'prejudicial' comments

Planning agenda 'should not have been censored'



Subject of debate: the former shop in Hitchmans Mews, Chipping Norton

CAMPAIGNERS have said a council decision to censor comments from documents sets a dangerous precedent.

West Oxfordshire District Council officers removed comments from a planning meeting agenda because they were "prejudicial".

Residents had objected to a mosque opening in a former shop in Hitchmans Mews, Chipping Norton.

But freedom of information campaigners said unless the material was deeply offensive officers should not censor comments.

The council said it was concerned comments could be interpreted as prejudicial and had an overall responsibility to foster good relations.

Campaign for Freedom of Information director Maurice Frankell said: "Although probably premeditated by a benign motive, it is probably something that was not necessary for them to have done and it is probably a little unwise to have done it."

"Unless it is offensive to the point of inciting racial hatred or defamatory, I think one would be reluctant to see

By Tom Jennings

comments on a planning agenda edited."

The council, which granted the mosque planning permission on February 4, received 28 letters of objections to the scheme and two in support.

Agenda documents said: "Some representations have not been included within this report due to their prejudicial nature."

Objections included: "Chipping Norton is the quintessential English market town and as such it is attractive to tourists and visitors and most who live here."

"I would wish this English character to be preserved."

Another objector said: "It [a mosque] will totally spoil the place."

A council spokesman said: "In this particular case there was also concern that a few comments could have been interpreted as being prejudicial."

"The legalities of such matters are very complex, but it is clear that the council has overall duties in relation to fostering good relations and equalities generally."

InBRIEF

Taxi driver is suspended

■ A taxi driver, arrested over a collision in which a 20-year-old woman was injured, has been suspended by Cherwell District Council. The pedestrian was struck outside the Odeon in Horsefair at about 1.50am on Sunday, February 24, and was taken to Horton General Hospital. Thames Valley Police said she suffered minor injuries and a taxi driver was arrested on suspicion of careless driving. It could not confirm if he had been charged. Tony Ecclestone – spokesman for the council, which licenses drivers – said: "A driver has been suspended pending an investigation and the matter is now with Thames Valley Police."

Abuse charge

■ A man has been arrested on suspicion of racially abusing a taxi driver. The incident is alleged to have occurred between Sinclair Avenue and Riley Drive, Banbury, at 12.52pm on February 17. A 57-year-old man from Banbury was arrested and released on police bail, pending further enquiries.

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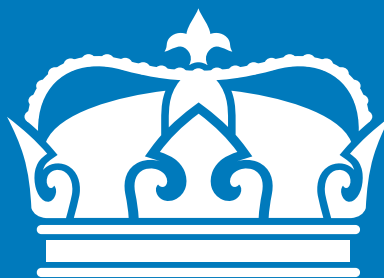


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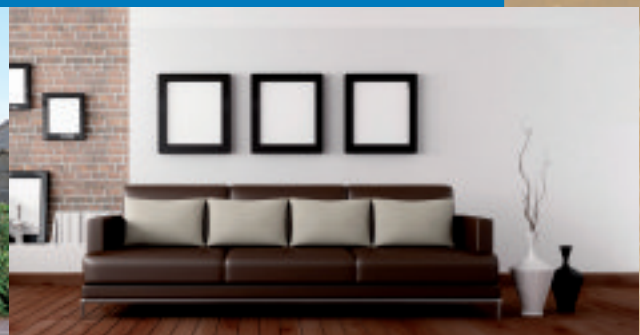


The Oxford Times

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Mercy chief in plea

By Tom Jennings

THE ambulance service has pleaded for callers to "stop wasting our time" to help improve response times and save lives.

South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) said ten per cent of 999 calls responded to were inappropriate and did not need an ambulance.

The service received 47,188 calls from Oxfordshire in 2011/12 and 71,866 in 2012/13, responding to

■ 'Stop wasting our time with inappropriate calls'

17,443 and 19,759 with an ambulance. With each ambulance call-out costing £247, this means inappropriate calls cost about £430,000 in 2011/12 and about £488,000 in 2012/13.

Inappropriate requests have included patients who could not afford a taxi to hospital, had an eyelash in

their eye or needed help with an injured animal.

SCAS chief operating officer John Nichols said: "Inappropriate calls could cost lives. It is really important that when we do mobilise a crew there is a high confidence that the patient really does need that emergency resource.

"Whilst the crew is tied up with that, they are not able to then respond to another patient."

The ambulance service also received 177 hoax calls in 2012/13 (0.25 per cent) although these were down on the previous year, when 240 hoax calls were received (0.51 per cent of calls).

Across the county, the ambulance service saw "unprecedented" demand in 2012 due to the increase in call-outs compared to 2011.

Mr Nichols said about six per cent of calls were dealt with by nurses or paramedics over the phone and hoped to increase this to 10 per cent by increasing clinical staff at the Bicester control room, which deals with most Oxfordshire calls, from about three to

five or six in the next year. He said paramedics were increasingly offering advice at the scene about which service to access, rather than transporting all patients to hospital, and the service was working with rural medical facilities to avoid taking patients into Oxford or Banbury hospitals and retain the ambulance in rural areas.

It was revealed last month that the ambulance service had failed to meet its target of getting to three-quarters of the most urgent emergencies within eight minutes in the last year in West Oxfordshire, South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse.

Mr Nichols also said the ambulance service, although already working in schools, was preparing an education programme to teach primary school children about first aid and appropriate 999 use.

Mark Booty, West Oxfordshire District Council cabinet member for health, said: "There needs to be a level of education to explain to people what is a 999 call and what is not."

But he said operators should screen inappropriate calls more effectively to stop ambulances from being sent out needlessly.

County councillor Jenny Hannaby, member of Oxfordshire joint health overview and scrutiny committee, said the number of inappropriate calls was "no excuse" for poor response times.

TIME-WASTING EXAMPLES

In the last three years, the ambulance service has been called out to:

● A driver who broke down on the M40 and was unable to get through to the recovery service.

An Oxford school because staff were concerned a child was going blue. The child had blue paint on them.

● A drunk man who wanted help to get up the steps to his house in the city centre on New Year's Eve.

● A young woman who had a headache after a night out in Oxford.

● A man who wanted paramedics to treat his dog's injured leg.

● A man from Kidlington who was reporting that a hedgehog had been run over.

● A woman who called from Japan for help for her father in Oxford who was having problems breathing.

When operators called the man it was discovered he was actually struggling to undo the cap on his nasal spray.

● For help fitting a lightbulb.

● For help buying cigarettes.

● To find a missing TV remote control.

South Central Ambulance Service chief operating officer John Nichols



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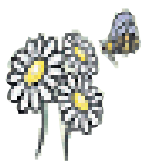
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People's bank set to go countywide

Credit union could expand

OXFORDSHIRE could soon see its first county-wide credit union.

Until now Oxfordshire was one of only three counties in the UK without a credit union across its whole area. But now the Oxford Credit Union has been given the go-ahead to expand beyond the city.

Mark Luntley is the chairman of the Oxford Road-based union. He said: "In the next couple of months we will push quite hard to increase our membership.

"At the moment we are a medium-sized credit union, but we would like to be bigger.

"We cannot just set up offices around the county, so we are looking at having our first mini-office in the south of the county – to have a collection point where people can deposit money and talk about their finances.

"We are in discussions with Soha housing association about that."

By Damian Fantato

The union, which was established in 2006, currently has about 1,100 members and savings of £300,000 – of which around £200,000 is out on loan at any one time. The average loan is estimated at around £800.

Until it was given permission by the Financial Services Union to expand late last year, the credit union was limited to taking on only those who lived or worked in Oxford.

In 2011, the county council spent £9,000 funding a study to see whether an Oxfordshire-wide credit union should be set up. As a result, Oxford Credit Union applied to the FSA to expand.

The FSA regulates banks and financial services across the UK.

Mr Luntley said: "If people save with a credit union they know their money is staying in Oxfordshire and benefitting its

residents, rather than disappearing. Quite often the people who save with us would go to a pay-day loan company. Our interest rate is much lower than what they would charge.

"We aim for the credit union to be for people from all walks of life. Many of our members don't want to use traditional banks."

Manager Richard Josephs said: "There are certainly many more enquiries coming from across the county from people wanting to join.

"I think it is partly to do with the economic environment but also people are wanting to find a more ethical place to put their money. There is a general anti-big bank feeling at the moment."

● A credit union is a financial institution owned and controlled by its members. It provides credit at a competitive rate to those who might not be able to get it elsewhere and all the profit is returned to its members.



Mark Luntley

InBRIEF

Call over Dogs Act

THE law needs to change to protect people from dangerous dogs, Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry told the Commons. The pug owner said that "we need to do a lot more on the reform" of the 1991 Dangerous Dogs Act and it must "command the greatest possible public support". An investigation by MPs called for councils to be given powers to give owners dog-control notices to combat "status symbol" breeds. Sir Tony added: "We need to be concerned about irresponsible dog ownership."

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By Liz Nicholls

A KALEIDOSCOPIC line-up of musical, theatrical, culinary and other cultural dazzlers have been announced for this summer's Wilderness festival.

After winning several industry awards and last year's blissfully sunny affair, organisers are planning another varied roster for the Cornbury Park site this August.

Empire of The Sun will give their UK festival exclusive, filling the musical bill along with Noah and the Whale, Rodriguez, Michael Kiwanuka, Brit-annointed darling Tom Odell, Tribes, Lucy Rose and Eliza and the Bear.

Legendary Detroit troubadour Rodriguez, who shot to notoriety following the BAFTA and Oscar-winning documentary about his life, *Searching for Sugarman*, said: "It is an honour and pleasure to be included to perform. I am told it is at a beautiful location, so we are looking forward to the scene."

The scene is indeed an achingly gorgeous one, with acts spangled around the Longside Forest grounds alongside Lord and Lady Rotherwick's country pad.

Foodies will be spoilt for choice again. This year's festival will see the return of flagship long-table banquets from Russell Norman and the Polpo team as well as of-the-minute Yotam Ottolenghi and legendary restaurateur Mark Hix. Back by popular demand, Exmouth Market's famous Moro will once again cook up a storm in their Souk dining tent and Thyme Cookery School also return.

The festival arts offering will be expanding to include breathtaking performances from some of France's most prolific circus and theatre collectives, Transe Express and Les Pepones. Expect stunning,



Empire of The Sun

high-energy animatronics and death-defying trapeze and circus performances in what promises to be an unforgettable, immersive theatre experience.

Shakespeare's Globe, Petersham Playhouse and opera from Vinette Productions will offer festival-goers unique performances.

The Lakeside Spa was 2012's most sought-after ticket and will be bigger and brighter than ever this year, with wood-fired saunas and hot tubs along with the Sanctuary well-being area.

You can also expand your mind at the Wilderness Forum supported by The Huffington Post UK, which this year includes a programme of cerebral discussions with The School of Life, The Royal Observatory, Intelligence Squared and The Idler.

The much-lauded late-night parties are also returning and will see festival heavyweights Secret Garden Party and party purveyors Rumpus taking over the Secret Valley when the sun goes down.

The family offering will be expanding to include a whole host of workshops and performances, including The House of Fairy Tales, Unicorn Theatre, Charles Dickens Museum, Witchwold School of Rock and Hullabaloo Arts.

Festival organisers Dean James, Tim Harvey, Jim Whewell and Jo Vidler say: "As festival organisers,



Rodriguez and Noah and the Whale, left, will star at Wilderness

Wilderness is still the mouth-watering prospect it's always been. It's a festival of experiences entirely shaped by the landscape of Cornbury and the surrounding Wychwood Forest. Each and every one of the amazing shows and happenings have been inspired by the lakes, valleys, copses and rides of our majestic home.

"From this year's exquisite banqueting concepts to the epic theatrical shows we are bringing over from mainland France, it will be a weekend of both electrifying entertainments and restful escape. "We can't wait."

■ **Wilderness takes place August 8-11. Weekend tickets: £139, Family tickets: £335. Children aged 10 and under go free. For tickets and more: wildernessfestival.com**

Shining example of Brecht

■ **REVIEW: A Life of Galileo.**

Bertolt Brecht at the RSC, Stratford, until March 30. For tickets, visit rsc.org.uk.

Completed in 1939 and set in 17th-century Italy, Brecht's *A Life of Galileo* is a study of the friction caused by conflicting ideas. By observing that the earth was not the celestial body about which the rest of creation revolved, Galileo brought himself into direct opposition with the Catholic church and, by turns, to the attention of the infamous Inquisition and their unspeakable 'instruments'.

Brecht's play, burnished by Mark Ravenhill's sparkling translation, traces Galileo's journey from frustrated academic to scientific superstar (think Renaissance Brian Cox), and the subsequent public recantation of his controversial theories before the Pope.

It would be ungracious and

untrue to suppose Galileo did not enjoy the courage of his convictions – he did, he just didn't have the courage to die for them. Ian McDiarmid captures the mischievous enthusiasm, humanity and hard-headed pragmatism of the scientist with a performance of such subtlety and craft, it is the brightest star in a production that glitters with bright points. I was impressed by Matthew Aurbrey's infectious portrayal of Galileo's eager young protégé, Andrea, and Jodie McNeen renders Galileo's dutiful daughter with a convincing blend of vulnerability and her father's pragmatism. Paul

Whitchurch is also excellent as a gartered cardinal.

The aesthetic is pared down, minimal but engaging, and the director, Roxana Silbert, skilfully employs a gallery of musicians to link scenes with song and sounds to great effect. At a time when a creaking theology finds itself at odds with the idea of women priests and same-sex marriage, and the resignation of the Pope has left the Catholic Church with questions of its own to answer, audiences might find the ideas so brilliantly communicated in this *A Life of Galileo* resonate louder than ever.

Ian McDiarmid (Galileo Galilei)

Picture: Ellie Kurtz

Tanya Lisak

STARS with Claire Petulengro

Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times

ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

New ways to get on with difficult family members make your life a much easier place to be. Don't make fun of a friend who's gone through a break up and don't bad mouth their ex partner. They're likely to get back with them sooner than you think. People you did not think liked or fancied you are about to both shock and pleasantly surprise you my friend. Phone now and I'll tell you a secret.

0906 585 4360

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

Is that a little boredom and frustration I sense Taurus? Don't tell tales on those around you. Remember the saying that people in glass houses shouldn't throw stones. This is a month where house moves are well starred and you find it possible to get the best deals around. For once you can go with your feelings. Give me a call now to hear why the Moon promises to reveal a lie.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

Travel you make this week should get you what or who you want. Back down from a confrontation with a friend. What you're falling out over is not worth the friendship you could lose in the process. You know what you want, but your insecurities are standing in the way of making you happy, and it's time to take a stand. Give me a call to hear why this could be a month for promotion.

0906 585 4362

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

Something you are either under a contract or a verbal agreement to do provides some difficulties, but part of the problem is that you are not looking at what is important, you're just fluffing around the outside of the story. Real friends would tell you the truth, but they also don't want to see you hurt. Remember that my friend. Call now to review life and love.

0906 585 4363

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

Older people in your life are thinking of making some pretty major changes. Don't just give a flippant answer but show that you care and that you're really thought about what they're going to do. Don't jump down a close one's throat this week. They want your changes together as much as you do. Ring me now to hear why it will pay to act as mentor this week.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

Friends of course want the best of you, but don't forget that every now and then each of the signs in the zodiac can develop a bit of the green eyed monster in themselves. You would be well advised to follow your own path and to make up your own mind until Thursday or you could lose an opportunity and a friend. Ring my star line to hear who I think your heart really belongs to.

0906 585 4365

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

You are spending money without really checking on the amounts you are paying out. Look again Libra, as if you're not careful, you could end up putting something you've long desired way out of your reach. Gossip you hear in the workplace is likely to be nothing more than jealousy and overwork, so try not to bite. Ring now to hear how places near water link to confessions.

0906 585 4366

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

This is a really lucky time for you to go for new job interviews or to try and better your position in the job you're in. You know you need to rope in those finances, and the sooner you do it, the sooner you can turn that all important corner. Emotions run high this weekend when you could end up saying things you'll regret for a lifetime. Give me a call so I can tell you about tomorrow today.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

You start off this weekend serious but by Monday the silly phase kicks in. The planets are trying to seduce you and from all accounts you're actually a blessing. Things you may think about a close one must be confirmed before you start making accusations you cannot take back. Communication is your problem. Sort it out sooner rather than later. Phone now to reveal what your stars are planning.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

Your cheeky nature is about to land you not just one but many new admirers. All prove compatible. What will you have an earth sign you'll take your time, unless you give in to Friday's dramatic temptation to do something off the wall. You've needed to blow off some steam but this could be the week you make some explosive actions. Ring now for some safety guidelines.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

Plans you lay for this time prove really exciting not just for you but also for those involved. A disappointment on Sunday is actually a blessing. Things you may think about a close one must be confirmed before you start making accusations you cannot take back. Communication is your problem. Sort it out sooner rather than later. Phone now to reveal what your stars are planning.

0906 585 4370

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

You may not be feeling as strong as you should physically but mentally you're on the ball. Therefore you have all the assets and facilities you need to make a gameplan to get back to full strength. A real friend may not have told lies, but they would also not have hurt you intentionally either, just remember that. Ring now to hear why travel is a necessity for your happiness this month.

0906 585 4371

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07/03/2013



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Thorough Oxford female, 42, 5', medium-build, fair-hair, blue-eyes, smoker, likes swimming, holidays, pubs and meals out, seeks a genuine male. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 124247

ENJOY AND SHARE LIFE Attractive, divorced Melksham lady, 45, 5'5", red hair, green eyes, grown up in Banbury, loves the outdoors, travel, animals, family life, seeking a genuine guy, 40-50, for true romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138266 or send a text to 80360

OF A GENUINE DESCRIPTION

Laid-back Swindon female, 46, still looking for my Mr Right, to share and enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126129

IT COULD BE US Spiritual, genuine

Didcot woman, 46, attractive, fun, have grown up children, likes clubs, cafes, music, films, walking and reading, seeking a caring and optimistic man, for friendship first. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 136967 or send a text to 80360

RIGHT HERE WAITING Quiet, rational and sincere Watlington woman, 48, 5'5", would like a date with an aware, intuitive gent, for happiness, love and laughter. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126129 or send a text to 80360

SMOOTH MOVE Slim, blue-eyed

Trowbridge female, 49, 5'2", GSOH, easy to get on with, enjoys nights out, walks and more, searching for an honest, active, interesting man. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 109958 or send a text to 80360

TOP OF THE CLASS Enthusiastic, cultured and vibrant Melksham woman, 49, 5'5", looking for an enthusiastic, vibrant gent, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 133880 or send a text to 80360

GIVE IT A WHIRL Sincere Witney

female, 50, own flat & car, enjoys walks, cinema, cycling, pubs, meals out, seeking a nice guy, to share good times with and hopefully romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138872 or send a text to 80360

BUILD A RELATIONSHIP Well-travelled, sincere, Devizes female, 51,

enjoys pub lunches, walking my dog, playing tennis, music, travel, looking for someone nice, to share things with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 139424 or send a text to 80360

START LIVING AGAIN Friendly, fun

Oxfordshire divorced mum, 51, 5'7", grown up children, looking for love again and someone to share life with. Is the right man out there for me? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 1798804

VA VA VOOM Positive, lovable and

kind-hearted woman, #Age#, would like to meet a vivacious, self-assured male, for love and an honest future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135186

RESTORE MY FAITH Family orientated, honest, trustworthy and

caring Oxford mum, 53, looking for a genuine sincere guy, with a good sense of humour, to share good times with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116101

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TO THE FUTURE Flexible, life-loving,

optimistic, divorced Abingdon lady, 53, 5'7", non-smoker, wants to meet a feisty, adventurous gentleman, 44-54 for friendship, hopefully leading to committed relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138484

A NEW LIFE Truthful, gracious and

protective Wallingford girl, 54, 5'8", looking to find a truthful, sophisticated gent, to share and enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137082

SOMEONE EXACTLY LIKE YOU Caring,

lovely, bubbly Bicester lady, 54, looking for a tall, kind, caring and romantic man for a lasting loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 118921 or send a text to 80360

SIMPLE TASTES Open, honest

Bampton female, 55, enjoys country walks, gardening, swimming, theatre, travelling, would like to meet that special man, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 136810 or send a text to 80360

THAT SPECIAL PERSON Honest,

bubbly female, 56, kind, loving, seeks 6ft+ male, for romance, companionship & lots more. Bicester. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110670

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www.twoscompany.co.uk

SHALL WE DANCE? Blonde, blue-eyed

Swindon girl, 56, friendly nature, well-travelled and loyal, lover of life, searching for an active, educated man, who appreciates, food, wine and life in general. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110895

MEANINGFUL TIMES Active, outgoing

Trowbridge female, 57, loves cinema, seaside, travelling and animals, would like to meet a man for company leading to a possible relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117215

RECIPE FOR LOVE Kind hearted,

sociable Oxford lady, 57, active, caring, GSOH, enjoys rock concerts, seaside, animals and driving, searching for a warm, loving and funny gent, for company, sharing and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130132

FIRENDS FIRST Intelligent, attractive

Wiltshire female, 57, widow, brunette, 5'2", likes radio 4, reading, travel, art galleries and gym, new to area and seeking a similar guy, GSOH, for company and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 124892 or send a text to 80360

CLOSE TO HAPPINESS Cuddly,

young looking 58yr old Salisbury woman, likes travel, reading crime thrillers, all kinds of music, looking for a rugged man to make me smile & share fun times together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 119145

LIFE STARTS HERE Bubbly, attractive

Witney female, 59, slim build, 5'5, sociable, enjoys nights out, conversation, days away and cosy nights in, seeking a funny and intelligent male, for company and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134011

SEEKING THE RIGHT MAN Separated,

attractive Witney female, 60, 5'2", curvy, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128289 or send a text to 80360

LOVE IS FOR SHARING Easygoing,

sincere Trowbridge lady, 60, med build, 5'6", GSOH, N/S, enjoys good social life, darts, music, walking & reading, searching for that special guy, N/S and caring for dates & more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116161

THE LONG TERM Separated,

easygoing Oxford female, 60, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100451

GENUINE AND CARING Oxfordshire

widow, 61, 5'6", slender build, sociable, caring and well-travelled, searching for a genuine, professional guy, non-smoker, for friendship, maybe leading to love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 466487

THE BEST OF ME Independent,

honest and open Witney lady, 61, 5'6", likes cinema, dining out, motor sports, family life, wants to meet a practical, instinctive gent, for friendship and a fresh start in life. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138781 or send a text to 80360

FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE...

Sociable, active Witney woman, 63, GSOH, widow, attractive, likes meeting people, theatre, drinks, meals out and walking, seeking a similar man, caring and genuine, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 127066

CHATS OVER A PINT? Country

girl, 60, looking to meet a loving, dark haired, slim man, I'm 64yrs old, 5'7", slim and fit, love being outside, walking and gardening. Marlborough/Wiltshire Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 112241 or send a text to 80360

THE BETTER THINGS IN LIFE Divorced

Swindon female, 65, 5'5", works part-time, likes walking, travelling and cooking, would like to meet a nice sociable gent, with a good lifestyle, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114628

HONEST RELATIONSHIP Non-smoking

Bradford lady, 65, 5'5", slim-build, blue-eyes with a positive outlook, enjoy countryside, dancing, music, theatre, seeing a gent, 63-68, to enjoy similar interest. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128404 or send a text to 80360

ADVENTURE AHEAD Warm, friendly

Witney woman, 71, GSOH, youthful, attractive, likes dancing, walking, music, theatre, reading and meals out, seeking a tall, active and fun gentleman, for company and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123234

HAPPIER DAYS Kind-hearted,

honestly and sensitive Didcot woman, 71, would like a date with a lovable, kind-hearted guy, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 136207 or send a text to 80360

FRIENDSHIP & ROMANCE Genuine,

active Oxford male, 28, slim build, 5'7", caring, enjoys the gym, cycling and generally keeping fit, would like to meet a similar female, honest, GSOH and fun, for friendship and love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 122941

SHARE SOME TIME Adaptable,

upbeat and optimistic Oxford man, 33, would like to find a warm, laid-back girl, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134837 or send a text to 80360

WE COULD BE GOOD TOGETHER

Down to earth Swindon male, 37, enjoys cycling, walks, travel and lots more, seeks laid back female, for good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100773

PLENTY OF TLC Loving male, 40,

5'7", usual interests, from Didcot, looking for love and romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 111253

READY TO MEET MY SOULMATE

Outgoing, sociable Oxford male, 41, black, GSOH, caring, enjoys living life to the full and would like to share it with a bubbly, attractive and kind female, for a loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 127095

PERFECT HARMONY Fun-loving,

easygoing, tactile Witney biker, 41, 6ft, stocky build, shaven head and goatee, seeks fun loving, cheeky lady to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 108035 or send a text to 80360

TAKE HANDS Slim, tall Oxfordshire

male, 43, N/S, musician and artist, searching for his perfect woman, to make life complete. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 108016

ENJOY GOOD COMPANY Honest

male, 44, 6'3", stocky build, gosh, enjoys sports, travel, cosy times in, social drinks, seeks fun loving female, for happy times. Oxford. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101716 or send a text to 80360

DECISION IS YOURS Open-minded,

upfront, white Wantage male, 44, 6'4", black hair, green eyes, medium build, own flat, would like to meet a black lady, to share life together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 139413 or send a text to 80360

SHARE THE MOMENT Friendly,

lovely and sincere Oxford girl, 45, 5'10", wants to meet a homely, sensible woman, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134382 or send a text to 80360

NOT TO BE MISSED Spontaneous,

caring, hard-working Oxford guy, 54, likes music, cooking, live bands, good wine and F1, would like to meet a simple woman, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115773 or send a text to 80360

PERFECT COMPANY Practical, origi-

nal and loyal Oxford based man, 54, 5'10", divorced, into sport, history and much more, would like to find a pensive, kind-hearted female, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137091 or send a text to 80360

LET'S DO IT Upbeat, friendly man,

54, good sense of humour, into most things, travelling, good foods, looking for love and romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110840

TAKE CHARGE Bright, humorous

and optimistic Banbury man, 55, would like a date with a chatty, active woman, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132836 or send a text to 80360

A FUTURE FILLED WITH LAUGHTER

Divorced, young at heart male, 56, own house, Oxford, likes cinema, theatre and clubs, seeks caring female for happy times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 107632

CARING NATURE Dependable,

informed and responsible Witney man, 58, 6'3", looking for a brighter future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 111595

SHARING GOOD TIMES Upbeat

Burd widower, 58, own cars, works full time, likes days in and out, countryside walks, driving, looking for a similar woman for companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117916 or send a text to 80360

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HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL Kind,

caring, down-to-earth Thame male, 46, enjoys music, country walks, cooking, reading, films, seeking a kind, sincere, slim female, 25+. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137427 or send a text to 80360

COME CLOSER Active, kind-hearted

and upbeat Oxford bloke, 46, looking to find an insightful, liberal woman, for fun and maybe a little romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130080

GET TO THE GOOD TIMES Separated,

laid-back Bicester guy, 50, 5'10", brown hair/blue eyes, decent build, self-employed, looking for an attractive woman. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 136282 or send a text to 80360

LOVE TO HAVE A LAUGH Hardwork-

ing Oxford male, 50, 5'7", brown hair, own flat, likes socialising, cooking, nights in, seeks nice young lady for friendship leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 121027 or send a text to 80360

ACCEPT EACH OTHER Easygoing

Wantage male, 51, own car, works full-time, likes most sports, would like to meet an outgoing female, for good times leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135164 or send a text to 80360

TIME FOR A CHANGE Friendly

lifestyle, would like to meet a life-loving, interesting lady, to share the future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114479

ETERNAL COMPANIONSHIP Outgoing,

divorced Witney male, 52, pubs, meals, nice walks, family life, seeking an interesting woman, to get to know better. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126741 or send a text to 80360

ALL TO LOVE Kind and caring

Oxfordshire male, 52, brown hair, green eyes, GSOH, searching for a nice, genuine girl, for friendship first, then maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 461278

NOT TO BE MISSED Spontaneous,

caring, hard-working Oxford guy, 54, likes music, cooking, live bands, good wine and F1, would like to meet a simple woman, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115773 or send a text to 80360

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CARING NATURE Dependable,

informed and responsible Witney man, 58, 6'3", looking for a brighter future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 111595

SHARING GOOD TIMES Upbeat

Burd widower, 58, own cars, works full time, likes days in and out, countryside walks, driving, looking for a similar woman for companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117916 or send a text to 80360

PASSION FLOWER Young-looking

Oxford 59yr old chap, 5'9", dark hair, enjoys cinema, bowling, days out and socialising, seeks loving, loyal female, for lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122 or send a text to 80360

CONFIDENTLY YOURS Widowed

chap, 61, 5'10", own home/business, Witney based, enjoys music, country walks, pubs, fishing, gardening, seeks outgoing female, to enjoy life again. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 107964

LONG LASTING HAPPINESS Fairly fit

Banbury man, 61, 5'11", fair-hair, blue-eyes, works as electrician, looking for a nice lady around the same age, for friendship possibly leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123284

POSITIVE ATTITUDE Fit Latino

male, 61, looking for someone who can share fun, life in general and hopefully love with. Oxford. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 460522

MAKE A FRIEND Warm, romantic

Tension mounts over the mayor's pay-back marker

BROKEN CITY (15, 109 mins)
Thriller/Action/Romance. Mark Wahlberg, Russell Crowe, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Jeffrey Wright, Barry Pepper, Natalie Martinez, Kyle Chandler, Alona Tal. Director: Allen Hughes.

We don't need serpentine thrillers such as *Broken City* to remind us that politics is a grubby business.

As recent headlines attest, elected authority figures who we trust to shape and reform our laws can occasionally ride roughshod over those same rules and regulations.

Allen Hughes's film argues that to effect lasting change in the corridors of power, you have to be prepared to get your hands bloody.

Or pay someone else to get their money-grabbing mitts filthy on your behalf.

It's a parable for our corrupt, power-hungry times.

The anti-hero in *Broken City* is New York cop Billy Taggart (Mark Wahlberg), who takes down an unarmed suspect and faces a prison sentence for his apparent lapse in judgement.

It looks like an open and shut case until popular mayor Nicholas Hostetler (Russell Crowe) steps in with a deal, making clear to Billy that he expects a favour in return.

Seven years later, Billy is a low-rent private detective.

He owes \$42,000. The situation is dire, even with a brilliant assistant (Alona Tal) chasing up outstanding bills.

Out of the blue, Hostetler calls in his marker: he asks Billy to gather evidence to prove that his wife Cathleen (Catherine Zeta-Jones) has been unfaithful.

"When you called, I didn't think it would be for something like this," Billy tells the mayor.

"Neither did I," growls Hostetler, who is embroiled in a bitter election battle with charismatic rival Jack Valliant (Barry Pepper), and doesn't want a marital scandal to blight his chances with the electorate.

A simple surveillance operation reveals a hotel room liaison between Cathleen and Paul Andrews (Kyle Chandler), manager of the Valliant campaign.

Her betrayal seems clear, then Andrews is murdered and Billy grapples with the chilling probability that he signed the campaign manager's death warrant.

Broken City marshals an impressive cast and Brian Tucker's script sustains dramatic tension for the opening hour by teasing us with the characters' ulterior motives.

"You think you're investigating adultery?" spits Zeta-Jones's slinky spouse, setting alarm bells ringing.

Wahlberg goes through the motions as the pawn in a deadly game he doesn't understand until it is too late, but Crowe savours his opportunity to chew on scenery as the man in power who won't give up his crown easily.

Their big showdown is rather one-sided – Crowe spits venom all over his co-star – but plot



Mark Wahlberg, as Billy Taggart, in a scene from the film, *Broken City*

Picture: PA Photo/Studio Canal

mechanics and technology come to Wahlberg's rescue in the final reckoning.

Despite the neat premise, Tucker's script becomes increasingly preposterous and is peppered with surreal one-liners that masquerade as gritty street talk.

"I'm taking him down like a caged monkey!" shrieks one character; "Help me or you're sucking on bananas too!" threatens another.

Sounds painful.

CakeWhat's on

Music FRIDAY

Town Hall, Market Place, Chipping Norton: 101st Chipping Norton Music Festival Youth Jazz Band Challenge, in association with Chipping Norton Rotary Club. 7pm. Admission 32.50. 01993 831810.7:00pm

Fox Middle, Enstone Road, Middle Barton: Ear Candy. Duo performing covers from 60s to present. Free admission. 9pm. 01869 340338.

SATURDAY

Greatworth Sports and Social Club, Helmdon Road, Banbury: 2Twenty2 Live - charity gig. £5 each to include entry in the raffle. Proceeds to The Algon Trust in Whittlebury. 7-11pm. 01295 713728.

Phoenix, Queen Catherine Road, Steeple Claydon: Resurrection- a rock and pop covers duo. Free admission. 9pm. 01296 738919.

St Peter's Church, Church Street, Deddington: Moonrakers Celtic Music. Featuring Celtic

harp, fiddle, guitar, Irish bouzouki, whistles and female/male vocal. 7.30pm. £10, £8. 01865 769206.

White Horse, The Square, Kings Sutton Banbury: Crystal Disco. Free admission. 9pm. 01295 810843.

SUNDAY

Town Hall, Market Place, Chipping Norton: Amazing Alphon. Frances Jones will be playing a variety of music on her alphon. 3pm. 01993 831810.

Theatre

The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury:

Until Mar 9, *An Inspector Calls*. JB Priestley's play of social responsibility and effect. 7.45pm. Presented by Banbury Cross Players. Tickets £8.50. Box office: 01295 279002.

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Mar 7-9, *The Glass Menagerie*, Tennessee Williams's classic play, presented by Chipping Norton Theatre. 7.45pm. £14, concession £12, schools £8.50. Box office: 01608 642350.

Events SATURDAY

Spring market: Village Hall, Ludgershall Road, Piddington. Local products and gifts under cover, reflecting the season. Fundraising towards a community shop. 9.30am-1.30pm. Free admission. 01869 320950 and 01844 238294.

MONDAY

Talk: Banbury Cricket Club, White Post Road, Bodicote. Evolution of the Banbury Ornithological. 7.30pm. Free.

TUESDAY

R/C Banger racing: Launton Sports and Social Club, Bicester Road, Launton. (Located on the Launton Playing Field Complex.) We race on a short oval with a carpet surface with plastic armco barrier and post and wire corners, located in Launton Sports and Social Club. Classes raced: We race 1/12th R/C Bangers with a support formula (Saloon Stox or F2s). Free to watch. Come and join in with your own model. From 8pm. 07801710621.

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CakeSport

banburycake.co.uk/sport

Banbury denied injury-time penalty

Banbury Utd (Hopkins 13)	1
Bedworth Utd (Bates 85)	1

BANBURY United had to settle for a draw, having been denied what they felt was a cast-iron penalty in injurytime of their match at home to Premier Division strugglers Bedworth on Saturday.

With the scores level, Banbury's Chris Lait took the ball down the right and cut in to the penalty area, only to be brought down. But, the match officials saw it differently and no penalty was given.

Although Banbury could feel aggrieved, Bedworth

deserved to take something from the game.

The Puritans went in front in the 13th minute when Michael Hopkins picked up the ball inside the Bedworth half.

He took it through to the visitors' penalty area where he slotted past former Banbury keeper Andy Kemp for a great individual goal.

After the break, Bedworth began to dominate the game.

Tom Lorraine's header looked destined for the back of the net, but Banbury keeper Warren

Carter pushed it behind for a corner.

This signalled a heavy spell of pressure from Bedworth.

Their deserved equaliser came in the 85th minute when Tom Bates fired a free-kick from just outside the penalty area over the wall and past Carter into the goal.

Banbury Utd: Carter, Cray, R Plowright, Ashton, Ryan, Martin, (Dumbleton 84), Lait, W Plowright, Skendi, Isaac (Otobo 46), Hopkins. **Sub not used:** N Shariff. **Attendance:** 269.



Michael Hopkins wheels away after scoring a superb individual goal to put Banbury United ahead against Bedworth

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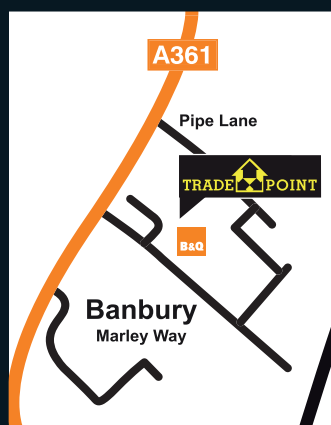
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REF: CH0403

A new vacancy has arisen for a Composite Paint Technician reporting to the Paintshop Team Leader.

The successful candidate will assist the Paintshop team in achieving the highest quality paintwork at all times.

Key Accountabilities/Duties include:

- To prepare, paint and polish all paintwork to the highest standard at all times
- To apply heat paints
- To prepare, paint and polish patterns
- To assist trainees and airbrush artist when required
- Travel abroad if required
- To follow health and safety guidelines
- Ensure that all equipment and tools are kept clean and tidy at all times

Skills & Attributes required:

- Good communication skills
- Ability to work under own initiative
- High level of skill in modern painting techniques
- Composite painting experience

PATTERN MAKER - DAY SHIFT

REF: CH433/2711

A new vacancy has arisen for a Pattern Maker reporting to the Pattern and Composite Machining Manager.

The successful candidate will be responsible for constructing and completing patterns for car components and 50% wind tunnel parts.

Key Accountabilities/Duties include:

- Preparing material for CNC machining
- Modifying patterns to suit drawing issue changes
- Liaising with CAM engineers on pattern construction
- Shuttering patterns to suit moulding requirements
- Hand finishing patterns following machining and painting

The successful candidate will have a recognised apprenticeship or equivalent qualifications in a related discipline. Knowledge of CNC machining would be beneficial.

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Closing date for both roles: Friday 22nd March 2013.

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Hi-tech help hands drivers no excuses

By David Duffy

THERE is absolutely no excuse for being caught speeding at the wheel of Volvo's new V40. There is also no excuse for drifting out of your lane on a motorway, missing anyone in your blind spot, reversing into something, hitting something in front, not parking perfectly, or even losing your car.

All of these things, of course, should be well within the grasp of any competent driver, but Volvo clearly feels an electronic helping hand or two, or even half a dozen, is no bad thing.

But despite the technological wizardry on offer to the driver, those most likely to give the V40 top marks are not even those inside it. For Volvo's sensational-looking, yet super-sensible executive hatchback is fitted with the world's first pedestrian airbag.

We will deal with the technology, and there is a lot of it, later but in a nutshell, Volvo's five-door, five-seater is a larger companion to the less roomy C30. Priced from about £20,000, with a choice of six engines, three body styles and a wide choice of options, the hatch is classy and well-built, with a smooth ride and sharp handling. Sophisticated diesel engines probably make the most sensible choice of power for long-

term ownership, but the 1.6-litre petrol model in the test car proved lively, quiet and economical.

Appealing to the very top end of the premium hatchback market, the V40 is packed with electronics, much of it linked to radars. Top of the list is the technology that can detect if a pedestrian steps out into the road in front of the car. If the driver does not respond in time, the car automatically brakes. If the car does hit the pedestrian, sensors in the front bumper trigger the release of the rear end of the bonnet which, at the same time, is lifted by an airbag that covers the area under the elevated bonnet, plus about one third of the windscreen to help cushion the blow.

Much of the technology built into the V40 is designed to ensure that collisions do not happen in the first place. One constantly monitors the risk of a collision and delivers



SMART THINKING: The car comes with a smartphone app that allows remote locking

an initial warning to alert you to brake or avoid the danger. Another monitors left and right-hand lane markings and gently nudges the steering to prevent drift. Yet another automatically parks the car and another displays speed limit signs in the speedometer.

There is even no excuse for forgetting to lock the car. If you own a smartphone, you can install an app that allows you to remotely lock the car wherever you are. And for the super-forgetful who can't remember where they parked, the app will also display a map, with a compass to lead you straight back.

Auto facts

Model: Volvo V40 T4 SE
Price: £23,730
Insurance group: 25 (1-50)
Fuel consumption: (Combined): 51.4mpg
Top speed: 140mph
Length: 437cm/172in
Width: 180cm/71in
Luggage capacity: 11.8 cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 13.6 gallons/62 litres
CO2 emissions: 129g/km
Warranty: Three years/60,000 miles

Usedcarscene

Younger motorists 'neglecting servicing'

RECENT research carried out by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) has revealed that many younger drivers are failing to have their car serviced and maintained correctly.

Risking vehicle-related financial, safety and efficiency problems, younger motorists are not only failing themselves but other road users too.

Polling 2,000 motorists on attitudes towards car maintenance, the survey found that 10% of drivers aged 18-24 claim their vehicle isn't ever serviced.

This figure rises among 25- to 34-year-olds, with 12% of owners failing to have even basic service and repair work carried

out. By contrast, the number of over-55s claiming never to service their car is just 2%, as well as around 5% of 35- to 54-year-olds.

The research highlights the danger to which some motorists are exposing themselves, with tyres and brakes among the many safety-critical items left unchecked.

Additionally, the service-skippers risk greater likelihood of a breakdown, reduced efficiency and increased wear and tear.

Commenting on the survey results, a SMMT spokesman said: "Most drivers are aware of the benefits of regular servicing, but a significant number of drivers are putting themselves

at greater risk of an accident, breakdown or costly repair by not taking their cars to a dealership for servicing.

"A properly maintained car is not only more fuel-efficient but will be safer and more reliable. "Putting off service and repair work is a false economy with risks and costs outweighing short-term gains."

Meanwhile, Peugeot has confirmed the starting price and key specification for the UK-bound 208 GTi, with the promise that "British buyers will be delighted" with the car. The flagship car for the range will start from £18,895 on the road for the three-door. It is unclear if a five-door will be offered.

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Blue, 1999, 5 speed manual, petrol, C/RL, alarm, air con, alloys, sunroof, CD, 5 doors, good first car, 59,000 miles

07853 138788

£750

FORD KA COLLECTION



2002 black panther metallic,alloys, good tyres, brand new mot, new clutch, power st, central locking electric windows, cd player, air con very good condition

01295 256014 07710 247062

£1595 ovno

Honda

HONDA ACCORD SPORT 2.2



Reg 2007, tax and MOT July 2013, in silver, 100,000 mileage, full service history, cruise control, 6 speed gear box, tow bar, half leather, exc condition

01793 423194 or 07818 510574

£4500 ono

Jaguar

JAGUAR S TYPE

2.7d V6 Sport 4dr Auto, 2005, Diesel, Automatic, Airbag, Alarm, ABS, E/M, E/W, Leather Seats, PAS, RC/L, FSH, Tax and Mot Oct 13

07970 874322

£4700

Mazda

MAZDA 2



Metallic grey, 2008, manual petrol, C/RL, alarm, air con, alloys, CD/iPod socket, 1 female owner, 12 months MOT, 6 months tax, 32,921 miles

07817 565063

£4,995

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Mazda

MAZDA 3



Blue, 2005, 5 Speed Manual Petrol, C/RL, Alarm, Aircon, Alloys, CD, parott hands free, MOT, Tax, good tyres, Nice condition (non smoker) 92800 miles

07980744854

£2,595

MAZDA MX5

99 V, 1.8, BRG, elec windows, c/locking, heated rear window, 62,000 miles, new cambelt, 6 months MOT, 2 months tax, excellent drive, needs tidying hence price.

07854 863380

£950 ono

Motorbikes & Scooters

YAMAHA CS 50 JOG RR



Scooter in VGC. 2009 59 REG. MOT October 2013. Full set of keys. Lockable topbox. 6309 miles

07795 900264

£850

Peugeot

PEUGEOT 207 SPORT AUTO

2009, 1.6, 5dr,hatch, light grey thorium metallic, MOT &Tax +S/History, 2 owners, 26kmls, A/C,CD & MP3 player

Tel: 01793 825515

£4,500 (Bargain)

Peugeot

PEUGEOT 406

Registered 2001, mileage 55,450, petrol, blue, manual. Two careful owners.

Very good condition.

01225 760975

£850

Renault

RENAULT ESPACE V6

Gold, 2003, 5 Speed Auto LPG/Petrol, C/RL, Alarm, Aircon, Alloys, CD, 7 seats, Optional hand controls for disabled driver 91700 miles

£3,000

01235 834492

ROVER

ROVER COUPE SE 1.6



SILVER METALLIC, 1998, MOT SEPTEMBER, TAXED JULY, NEW BATTERY, HEAD GASKET/CAM BELT REPLACED, OWNED FROM NEW, 75000 miles

01235814724

£950

Subaru

SUBERU IMPREZA, GL4 WDA,

SPARES OR REPAIRS Hatchback, green, 1822cc, damage to off side front light, Petrol, Automatic

£250 ono

07890 225708

Vauxhall

VAUXHALL CORSA SXI TWINPORT

1.2L Silver, 05, 12 Months MOT, 5 Speed Manual Petrol C/RL, Alarm, A/c, Alloys,CD, Brand New tyres One man Owner 32k miles

07800 915111

£2,750

VAUXHALL VECTRA



2003, 1.8 LS 5 door 53 plate manual, silver blue 104k, tax may13 mot nov13, a/c e/w e/ door mirrors etc Excellent condition, drives lovely, genuine reason for sale

07877184905 Bargain at

£1395 Ono

Volkswagen

VOLKSWAGEN BORA



VW Bora TDI1.9 SE 130 BHP Sport Silver Service History 6CD Multichanger Aircon Cruise Control Alloys 1 Previous owner 121000 miles

07766728763

£1,675

VOLKSWAGEN GOLF E

White, 1998, 5 Speed Manual Petrol, Sunroof, CD, FSH, 1LO, Excellent condition, 2 new tyres, taxed to October 2013 129000 miles

01865514579

£800

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- 2008 58 **VW GOLF 2.0 TDI GT SPORT 140**, Black, 3 Door, Excellent service history, Full leather interior, Alloys, PAS, Electric windows, Electric heated door mirrors, Radio/CD, Lovely condition, Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt kit..... **£8,495**
- 2007 57 **VW POLO 1.2E**, 3 Door, Red, One private owner from new, Approximately only 23000 recorded miles from new, Full service history, Superb condition throughout, PAS, Central locking, Radio/CD, Low insurance, Excellent economy, Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt, HPI Clear **£5,395**
- 2006 06 **VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 DCi SPORTIVE (DIESEL) VAN**, Silver, Exceptional condition, PAS, Radio CD, Ply lined, No vat **£2,925 (NO VAT) BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**
- 2003 53 **RENAULT CLIO 1.2 16V**, 5 Door, Dark Met Red, PAS, Electric windows, Remote central locking, Radio/CD, Local car, Sold with a new MoT a full service, and a new cambelt kit, HPI Clear **£2,350**
- 2001 51 **VOLVO C70 CONVERTIBLE**, Silver, Leather interior, Electric hood, Alloys, Electric windows, Electric mirrors, Radio CD, Aircon, etc etc, Excellent condition, Local car, Sold with a new MoT a full service and a new cam belt, HPI clear **Arriving soon**
- 2002 52 **VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 LS**, Silver, 5 Door, Air conditioning, PAS, Electric windows, Central locking, Local car, Sold with a new MoT, a service and a new cambelt, HPI Clear **£1,895**
- 2002 52 **CITROEN SAXO 1.1 FORTE**, Silver, 3 Door, 2 Owners from new, Full service history, Radio taxed till may 2013, ideal first car, Low insurance, HPI Clear, Viewing by appointment only **£1,695**
- 2002 02 **FORD FOCUS. 1.6 ZETEC**, 5 Door, Silver, Previously supplied by ourselves, Aircon, Alloys, Remote central locking, Electric windows, Radio/CD, Very tidy condition throughout, Sold with a full service and a new MoT and a new cambelt, HPI Clear **£1,650**
- 2000 W **FIAT SEICENTO 1.1 SPORTING**, Red, 3 door, PAS, Electric windows, Central locking, Radio/CD, Sold with a new MoT and a full service, HPI clear **£1,250**
- 2001 Y **SKODA FABIA 1.4 CLASSIC**, Dark Green, 5 Door, PAS **Arriving Weekend**

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Volkswagen

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01373 825422 or 07815831657

£1650 ono

Volvo

VOLVO S80 2.4D SE GEARTRONIC



2007 (07), silver/black leather, FVSH, MOT 24/5/13, phone preparation, winter pack, cruise, climate, new front discs and pads, EXCEPTIONAL. 124,000 miles

07594 695403

£4,950

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185.60x15 from £42.50	205.40x17 from £52.00
185.65x15 from £42.50	205.50x17 from £57.50
185.65x15 Yokohama from £56.00	215.50x17 from £62.50
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07 57 KIA CEEB 1.6S Door, Silver, A/C, CD, Alloys, Elec Windows, Airbags	£25	£5299
05 55 FORD FOCUS 1.6 GHIA, 5 Door, Silver, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbags, Elec Windows	£23	£4999
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